

# DESERTS OF THE UNITED STATES



## WHAT IS A DESERT?

A desert is an area that gets less than 10 inches of rain per year. It can be very hot, (130 degrees F), and sometimes quite cold (below freezing).

Red Rock Canyon is within the Mojave Desert which is the smallest of the four North American deserts.

Death Valley National Park is also located within the Mojave Desert's boundaries and boasts of having the world's second hottest recorded temperature of 134.6 degrees F. That's hot enough to fry an egg on the sidewalk!

The Mojave Desert gets most of its four inches of rain during winter storms, but the eastern sections, like Red Rock Canyon, also get occasional scattered summer thunderstorms. The rain is important to support shrubs, spring and summer wildflowers, cacti and trees which in turn support wildlife.

Come and discover a part of the Mojave Desert at Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area.